

Congressional Delegation Disagrees on ACS Sale



SEN. GRAVEL CONGRESSMAN POLLOCK SEN. STEVENS

Gravel Wants New System Installed STEVENS AND POLLOCK AGREE WITH THE SALE

U.S. Senator Mike Gravel formally protested plans by the Department of Defense to sell the Alaska Communications System.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, Senator Gravel urged that the sale be cancelled and that the Air Force upgrade the system immediately with funds available under its industrial funding program.

He said that the state should immediately develop with a private carrier a satellite system that would serve the needs of all Alaskans.

The Senator said that within two or three years such a system could provide direct television and telephone to all Alaska communities, including its villages and that the cost would be no greater than it would be under the existing plan.

"For the same amount of money, Alaska could have its own satellite which would provide a total system," he said. With that possibility before us I could not in good conscience sanction the type of sale the Air Force has proposed."

He said that in any event the people of Alaska would have to pay the bill through telephone and telegraph rates.

His position on the ACS sale is different than that held by the other members of the Alaska congressional delegation, Congressman Pollock and Senator Ted Stevens. They have told Laird that they do not object to the sale if certain modifications are made in the bid package.

In his letter to Laird, Senator Gravel said:

"My proposal to you, Mr. Secretary, is that you cancel the sale and that the Air Force exercise its industrial funding authority to immediately upgrade the existing system.

"I propose that Alaska discuss with the communications industry the possibility of installing a total satellite system for Alaska, and when and if agreement is reached on such a system, the Air Force support the application by private carrier for authority to serve as Alaska long line carrier.

"I further propose that the Air Force continue to maintain its communications establishment in Alaska as need warrants and to surplus property that has outlived its usefulness, using accepted, traditional government procedures.

"Mr. Secretary, there is no question that the Alaskan civilian community has the worst communications system under the American flag, if not in the world. Technology offers us the prospect of having the very best within two or three years.

"I say that the only interest here should be the public interest and the only decision that can best serve the people of Alaska would be the one proposed in this letter.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sen. Ted Stevens and Congressman Howard Pollock sent a joint letter to Defense Secretary Melvin Laird last week after a morning meeting the secretary held with Stevens, Pollock and Sen. Gravel concerning the proposed sale of ACS (Alaska Communications System.)

After the meeting, the two Republican lawmakers said they were in complete agreement during the meeting and felt that substantial progress regarding the sale had come out of the meeting.

Among these were that the secretary's office would review the conditions of the sale regarding microwave facilities in the package offered for sale and the use of Defense Department com-

munications facilities in Alaska by other government agencies after the sale.

Pollock and Stevens asked the secretary to instruct the Air Force to extract immediately from each of the proposals the specific commitments and guarantees offered with regard to employees of the ACS and that these extracts be made available immediately to the employees.

The Department of Defense has agreed to this request.

Pollock and Stevens said that they had set down their joint position as concerns the sale in a detailed four-page letter and had delivered the letter to Secretary Laird.

At the meeting, Laird said he would look forward to future

review of the Alaska position as set forth in the letter.

Gravel said he would make his views known to Laird in a separate letter to the secretary.



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He should be knowledgeable or educationally capable of learning modern planning principals and practices. He should have a capability to learn and understand social and economic problems and principal of engineering, architectural and public administration. He must be able to work independently with minimum of supervision conducting research. He must be able to communicate information pertinent to his job assignment in a clear, concise form either orally, written or a graphic form.

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3. Length of continuous residency in and familiarity with the area and the villages of the area.
4. Must be able to relocate or reside in Bethel, Alaska if hired.

If interested, forward resume of education and work experience to the Alaska Federation of Natives, Attn: Fred Selkregg, Economic Development Coordinator, 1689 C Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

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